

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph appearing on lines 7-10 of page 1 of the substitute specification with the following paragraph, where changes relative to the previous version are shown in compliance with Rule 121(b):

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/229,724, filed Jan. 13, 1999, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/006,288 filed on January 13, 1998, now abandoned, and incorporated herein by reference.

Please also replace the paragraph appearing on lines 23-31 of page 23 of the substitute specification with the following paragraph, where changes relative to the previous version are shown in compliance with Rule 121(b):

Figure 3 shows a schematic cross-section feedblock 10, which is enclosed in a housing 12. Within the housing 12 reside an optional manifold plate 20 and a gradient plate 30, which in combination, define at least two supplemental channels, a first channel 22 and a second channel 24. As shown, a portion of the bottom surface of manifold plate 20 together with a portion of the top surface of gradient plate 30 define the supplemental channels 22 and 24. The supplemental channels are an optional feature of the feedblock, and they help convey resin from one position in the feedblock to another position. In addition, plate-type heaters (~~not~~ shown schematically at 13a, 13b, 13c) can be attached to the external surfaces of the housing 12.